

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:**

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended)      A-The system according to claim 12, wherein the second optical surface (7) ~~is provided with~~ has deposited the hydrophobic layer (11) ~~that has~~with a thickness substantially equal to  $0.25 \lambda/n$ .

3. (Currently amended)      A-The system according to claim 12, wherein the second optical surface (7) ~~is provided with~~ has deposited a hydrophylic layer (11) ~~on a surface of the second optical surface remote from the focused radiation beam~~ that has a thickness substantially equal to  $0.25 \lambda/n$ .

4. (Currently amended)      A-The system according to claim 12, wherein the optical head (3) further comprises a magnetic coil (4) ~~arranged at a side of the optical head (3) closest to the recording stack (9) such that an optical axis of the optical head (3) traverses the center of the magnetic coil (4) and the recording stack (9) of the optical data storage medium (5) is of the magneto-optical type.~~

5. (Currently amended)      A-The system according to claim 4, wherein the magnetic coil (4) has an inner diameter smaller than  $60 \mu\text{m}$ .

6. (Currently amended)      ~~A~~The system according to any one of claims ~~4-5~~12 and 2-5, wherein the hydrophobic layer (~~10, 11~~) comprises a material selected from the group of poly-para-xylenes, fluorocarbons and copolymers ~~thereof~~ of fluorocarbons.

7. (Currently amended)      ~~A~~The system according to any one of claims ~~4-6~~4-5, wherein the focused radiation beam has a wavelength  $\lambda$ , wherein the transparent hydrophobic layer has a refractive index  $n$ , and wherein the magnetic coil (~~4~~) is contained in a partially transparent slider, that is adapted for flying at a distance of  $>0.5 \lambda/n$  and  $<2 \mu\text{m}$  from the first optical surface (~~6~~).

8. (Currently amended)      An optical data storage medium (~~5~~) having a recording stack (~~9~~), formed on a substrate (~~8~~), said recording stack suitable for recording by means of a focused radiation beam (~~1~~), with a wavelength  $\lambda$  in air, the recording stack having a first optical surface most remote from the substrate, ~~characterized in that the first optical surface (6) is provided with~~ having deposited thereon a transparent hydrophobic layer (~~10~~) that has a refractive index  $n$  and has a thickness smaller than  $0.5 \lambda/n$ .

9. (Currently amended)      ~~A~~The optical data storage medium according to claim 8, wherein the ~~first optical surface is provided with a hydrophobic layer (10) that has a thickness smaller than~~  $0.25 \lambda/n$ .

10. (Currently amended)      ~~A~~The optical data storage medium (~~5~~) according to claim 8 or 9,

wherein the hydrophobic layer comprises a material selected from the group of poly-para-xylylenes, fluorocarbons and copolymers ~~thereof~~ of fluorocarbons.

11. (Canceled)

12. (New) An optical recording and reading system, the system comprising:

a laser configured to provide a focused radiation beam;

an optical data storage medium comprising:

a substrate, and

a recording stack formed on the substrate having a first optical surface remote from the substrate, wherein the recording stack is configured for recording by the focused radiation beam; and

an optical head, with an objective arranged on a recording stack side of the optical data storage medium and having a second optical surface closest to the recording stack, from which objective the focused radiation beam emanates during recording, wherein at least one of the first optical surface has deposited a transparent hydrophobic layer on a surface of the first optical surface remote from the recording stack or the second optical surface has deposited a transparent hydrophobic layer on a surface of the second optical surface remote from the focused radiation beam.

13. (New) The system according to claim 12, wherein the objective is adapted for recording/reading at a free working distance from the first optical surface smaller than 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

14. (New) A method of manufacturing an optical data storage medium, the method comprising acts of:

providing a substrate;

depositing a recording stack on the substrate, wherein the recording stack is suitable for recording by a focused radiation beam with a wavelength  $\lambda$  in air,

depositing a transparent hydrophobic layer on an optical surface of the recording stack most remote from the substrate, wherein the hydrophobic layer has a refractive index  $n$  and has a thickness smaller than  $0.5 \lambda/n$ .